

COASTAL CONSERVANCY

Staff Recommendation

March 25, 2004

GEOGRAPHIC INFORMATION SYSTEMS (GIS) MAPPING

File No. 01-118

Project Manager: Marc Beyeler

RECOMMENDED ACTION: Authorization to disburse up to \$200,000 to GreenInfo Network to assist the Coastal Conservancy in developing data layers and maps using Geographic Information System (GIS) tools, focused on coastal draining watersheds and priority coastal habitats, including wetland, riparian, related coastal natural resources, and nearshore marine resources.

LOCATION: Coastwide

PROGRAM CATEGORY: All Conservancy Programs

EXHIBITS

Exhibit 1: June 27, 2002 Staff Recommendation

RESOLUTION AND FINDINGS:

Staff recommends that the State Coastal Conservancy adopt the following resolution pursuant to Section 31111 of the Public Resources Code:

“The State Coastal Conservancy hereby authorizes the disbursement of an amount not to exceed two hundred thousand dollars (\$200,000) to GreenInfo Network to assist the Coastal Conservancy in developing data layers, maps and related products using Geographic Information Systems, as described in the accompanying staff recommendation, subject to the condition that prior to the disbursement of any Conservancy funds, GreenInfo Network shall submit for review and approval of the Executive Officer of the Conservancy a work program, schedule and budget.”

Staff further recommends that the Conservancy adopt the following findings:

“Based on the accompanying staff report and attached exhibits, the State Coastal Conservancy hereby finds that:

1. The proposed project is consistent with Section 31111 of the Public Resources Code, which authorizes the Conservancy to provide grant funding for plans and feasibility studies that implement the purposes of Division 21 of the Public Resources Code, Sections 31000 *et seq.*
2. The proposed project is consistent with the Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted by the Conservancy on January 24, 2001.

3. GreenInfo Network is a nonprofit organization existing under Section 501(c)(3) of the U. S. Internal Revenue Code, and whose purposes are consistent with Division 21 of the Public Resources Code.”
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PROJECT SUMMARY:

The proposed authorization would provide funds to undertake the compilation, development, and production of GIS data layers and maps for the identification of wetland and riparian resources and their habitat, open space, and scenic resources, and publicly-owned resource and open space lands. GreenInfo Network is a 501(c)(3) nonprofit organization dedicated to using Geographic Information Systems (GIS) to assist nonprofit organizations, public agencies, and citizens in conserving natural resources. In 2002 the Conservancy approved a grant agreement with GreenInfo Network to develop GIS tools for use by the Conservancy and its many community partners.

The Conservancy authorization of June 27, 2002 (Exhibit 1) allowed for the development of a draft Coastal Atlas using public domain GIS tools and data layers, and data layers compiled by GreenInfo with funds from the Coastal Conservancy and its grantees. Existing data layers focused on mapping coastal resources are incomplete and additional work to complete crucial data layers, such as publicly owned land or protected lands, needs to be completed to aid Conservancy goals. Conservancy staff is recommending approval of the funds to GreenInfo Network to continue agency efforts to develop more complete data layers. GreenInfo Network is a qualifying nonprofit, eligible to receive grant funds from the Conservancy to assist the staff of Coastal Conservancy in preparing continuing our efforts to develop additional GIS tools available to the Conservancy, its project partners and decision-makers and funders.

PROJECT FINANCING:

Coastal Conservancy	\$200,000
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The expected source of Conservancy funds for this project are funds from the Clean Water, Clean Air, Safe Neighborhood Parks and Coastal Protection Bond Act of 2000 (Proposition 40) and Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) monies appropriated to the Coastal Conservancy for the protection and conservation of sensitive coastal resources, including wetland, riparian, and related coastal habitats and species.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S ENABLING LEGISLATION:

This project will aid the Conservancy in carrying out the following mandates and will provide technical services necessary to the implementation of projects and programs and the dissemination of information to the public and decision-makers.

Pursuant to Public Resources Code Sections 31251-31270, the Conservancy may undertake projects and award grants for the purpose of enhancement of coastal wetland and riparian lands and their associated habitat resources which because of indiscriminate dredging, filling, improper location of improvements, or incompatible land uses have suffered loss of natural or scenic values. The GIS mapping project will contribute to the ability of the Conservancy to better prioritize, evaluate, and develop wetland and riparian resource enhancement projects. Consistent with §31252, the mapping project will include project areas identified in their respective certified

local coastal plans as requiring public action to resolve existing or potential resource protection problems.

Pursuant to §31203 (coastal restoration) and §31305 (urban waterfronts), the Conservancy seeks to promote excellence of design and to stimulate projects which exhibit innovation in sensitively integrating man-made features into the natural coastal environment.

Under §31302, the Conservancy is responsible for coordinating the activities of all other state and federal agencies that have urban waterfront programs, so as to increase the efficiency and minimize the duplication of those programs.

Pursuant to §§31160-31163, to address resource and recreational goals in the San Francisco Bay Area, the Conservancy may award grants to improve public access to and around the Bay and may assist projects that provide open space and natural areas accessible to urban populations for recreational purposes.

CONSISTENCY WITH CONSERVANCY'S PROJECT SELECTION CRITERIA & GUIDELINES:

The proposed project is consistent with the Conservancy's Project Selection Criteria and Guidelines adopted January 24, 2001, in the following respects:

Required Criteria

1. **Promotion of the Conservancy's statutory programs and purposes:** See the "Consistency with Conservancy's Enabling Legislation" section above.
2. **Consistency with purposes of the funding source:** The project will be funded with monies appropriated to the Conservancy from the Habitat Conservation Fund (HCF) for the protection and conservation of sensitive coastal resources, including wetland, riparian, and related coastal habitats and species. Consistent with the funding requirements of the HCF, the mapping project will identify coastal wetlands and riparian areas and their associated habitats to support the Conservancy's resource enhancement program.
3. **Support of the public:** As part of its policy, funding, and strategic planning work, the Conservancy has identified the development of mapping tools as a high priority.
4. **Location:** The proposed project is located in the coastal zone and coastal-draining watershed areas of the California coast.
5. **Need:** The proposed project is an essential continuing step necessary to adequately identify priority resource enhancement areas for wetland and riparian resources and their associated habitats.
6. **Greater-than-local interest:** The proposed project addresses statewide identification of wetland and riparian resources and their habitat, open space, and scenic resources, and publicly-owned resource and access lands.

COMPLIANCE WITH CEQA:

The proposed authorization does not have the potential for resulting in a physical change in the environment, and thus, under 14 Cal. Code of Regulations Section 15378, is not a “project” for purposes of the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA).